

Urban District of Redditch.

Annual Report

OF THE

Health and Sanitary Circumstances
of Redditch,

FOR THE YEAR 1913,

BY

JAMES STEVENSON, M.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

WITH THE


Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector,

WILLIAM JAMESON, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.,

Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.

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REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1913.

To the Chairman and Members of the Redditch Urban
District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

Redditch is situated on the eastern boundary of Worcester. It comprises the parishes of Redditch, Upper Ipsley and Feckenham Urban.

The soil is red, marl gravel overlaying Keuper sandstone.

Height above ordnance datum 330 to 550 feet.

Rainfall (1913), 29.64 inches.

The chief industries are the manufacture of cycles, motors, needles and fish hooks, with all their branches.

Since the introduction of fans and modern machinery, and the consequent disappearance of "pointers' rot," the occupation of the inhabitants does not seem to have any particular influence on public health.

Area, 1,023 statute acres.

Inhabited houses (June, 1913), estimated at 3,660.

Inhabitants per house, 4.3.

Total assessable value, £50,540 5s. 0½d.

Increase from year 1912, £1,791 4s. 7½d.

District rate, 4s. 7d.

Population in 1901 census, 13,493.

Population in 1911 census, 15,463.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1913.

Birth-rate...	...	...	...	...	...	20.2	per 1,000
Death rate	...	...	...	...	...	11.1	„ „
Zymotic Death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	0.4	„ „
Phthisis Death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	0.7	„ „
Measles Death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	0	„ „
Scarlatina Death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	0.06	„ „
Diphtheria Death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	0.06	„ „
Whooping Cough Death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	0	„ „
Diarrhoea Death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	0.3	„ „
Enteric Death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	0	„ „
Smallpox Death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	0	„ „
Cancer Death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	0.5	„ „
Infantile Mortality Figure	...	...	...	...	...	83	per 1,000 births

POPULATION.

The population at the census of 1901 was 13,493, and had increased to 15,463 at the census of 1911.

The population at the middle of 1913, by the estimate of the Registrar-General, was 15,900.

The number of inhabited houses in June, 1913, was 3,660.

The area of the district is 1,023 acres, and the density of the population 15.5 per acre.

BIRTHS.

The Births registered in the district during the year numbered 318, and, in addition to these, I have received from the Registrar-General notice of four others which properly belong to this district. This brings the total to 322. Of these, 156 were males and 166 females.

Of the total births 11, or 3.4 per cent., were illegitimate.

The net birth-rate was 20.2 per 1,000 inhabitants, a figure almost exactly equal to that of 1911 and 1912 (20.0 per 1,000).

In 15 years we have dropped from 30 per 1,000 to 20 per 1,000. To a certain extent this lowering of the birth-rate is general over the United Kingdom, but it is not customary to find it so marked in towns like Redditch, where the population is industrial, and where trade and wages have been so good.

We get some consolation from the fact that if our birth-rate is getting lower our rate of mortality amongst babies under one year of age has also very markedly decreased. Twenty-seven babies died during the year, which, considering the number of births (322), gives us a rate of 83 per 1,000 children born—the “ Infant mortality figure.” For the past six years we have averaged a figure of 84, only half of what it was in the ten years previous to that. For this happy result we are undoubtedly indebted to a very large extent to the work of the Health Missioner, appointed by the county to work in the town.

Practically all maternity cases were visited by her soon after the birth of the child. The Notification of Births Act being in force, she receives information promptly. In addition, she paid 1,740 visits to houses.

I take the following from her annual report :—

“ The infantile mortality figure is again very low. For a factory town, where there is so much female labour, this is phenomenal. The strikingly high record of past years for premature birth is also low. There are still many weaklings in Redditch infants, as often they cannot be breast-fed, they give much trouble to rear.

“ No doubt the rush and scurry of factory life, the inevitably long distances which many workers have to walk to their work, the confinement during factory hours, and the small margin of time left to prepare and eat proper food, all tend to weaken the constitution of the female worker. These conditions end in weakly offspring.

“ Two hundred and forty-four children were breast-fed from birth, but as 121 workers worked in factories half this number were wholly or partially weaned before six weeks of age. Twenty-five were fed artificially from birth, and 22 had both bottle and breast. Lessons were given on infant bathing during the rounds. Five practical lectures on the care of babies were given to the senior girl scholars of St. Stephen's School, and four lectures were given to adults.”

DEATHS.

During the year 162 deaths were registered in the district. One of them occurring in the hospital, was that of a stranger. Deducting this one, and adding sixteen deaths of Redditch “ residents,” which took place in hospitals, infirmaries, etc., outside our town, we get a net total of 177, equal to a rate of 11.1 per 1,000. The average for the previous five years was 11.8 per 1,000, so that 1913 comes out a little lower.

The chief certified causes of death were :—

Pneumonia	...	...	21	Phthisis Pulmonalis	...	12
Bronchitis	...	...	16	Cancer	...	8
Heart Disease	...	...	15			

In last year's report I noted an extraordinary number of deaths from cancer (27 out of a total of 186). This year we are decidedly under the average.

Pneumonia deaths were more frequent—21 against 12. Phthisis pulmonalis less—12 against 14. No deaths from Whooping Cough, against 12 last year, and, again, no death from measles.

The assigned causes of death are set out in Table III.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

These include all forms of Tuberculosis, Smallpox, Scarlatina, Diphtheria, Enteric, Typhus, Puerperal Fevers, Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, Polionyelitis, Erysipelas and Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Of notifications received, Scarlatina heads the list, 62 cases as against 29 in 1912. It is a peculiar thing that this number about equals our average number of Scarlatina cases occurring yearly for the past 10 years, total of 633 cases being notified from 1903 to 1912. I have often had it remarked to me that Scarlatina is yearly more prevalent in Redditch than in districts round about us. I think there is some truth in this.. I believe for all England and Wales the Scarlatina sickness rate is just under 3.0 per 1,000 of the population. Our average for the ten years comes out at 4.2 per 1,000 inhabitants. Of our 62 cases only one died.

The death-rate from Scarlatina has declined steadily from 1880. Modern sanitation, and modern treatment seem to have brought about a milder form of the disease. Does isolation at hospital lessen the number of cases? This is questionable. Here our records only go back seven years before our hospital was opened. In those seven years we had 802 cases—an average of 86 per year, with a population less by over 3,000 than we have now. As I previously stated, our average for the past ten years has been 63 per year. Still, hospital treatment is undoubtedly a heavy burden on the rates. Costly though it be, I think we must continue it here. We are peculiarly bound to it, being a town where female labour is so markedly prevalent. If we save rates, the homes lose weekly in wages, for in nine cases out of 10 it is a wage-earner who must stay at home to nurse the patient.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications of 55 cases were received, 41 of pulmonary and 14 of the other forms of Tuberculosis.

During the year we had 12 deaths from consumption of the lungs, and two deaths from the other forms of Consumption. Our death-rate from Phthisis is thus 0.7 per 1,000. Over the country generally the death-rate from this disease has been steadily getting lower for years, and it is gratifying to know that Redditch shares in this decrease.

From 1893 to 1902 it was 1.4 per 1,000 in Redditch.

From 1903 to 1912 it was 0.8 per 1,000 in Redditch.

The Tubercular Dispensary, started in 1912, still continues in use.

During the year a great deal of work in connection with this disease has been done by your officials, visiting cases, inspecting premises, disinfecting, etc., etc.

Much has been done, but a great deal more could be done. The county authorities have applied to you for (and you have granted) permission to appoint as assistant to your medical Officer of Health one of the County Tuberculosis Medical Officers, who will undertake under and through him all the public health work in the district in connection with the Tuberculosis Orders. In my opinion this is a wise step, as for many reasons, professional and otherwise, a part-time officer, who is at the same time a private practitioner, cannot thoroughly deal with all the cases arising.

Here, as elsewhere, the battle against Tuberculosis is being waged with enthusiasm. The prevention is no longer a medical problem. It is a sociological problem, and its success depends upon the education of the people.

Of the other notifiable diseases we had 20 cases of Erysipelas, with one death, four cases of diphtheria, one death, two cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis, both of which died, three cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and no cases of Enteric Fever, Smallpox, or Puerperal Fever.

Enteric Fever is becoming a rare disease in this town, and Diphtheria cases, too, have been very few for years.

We have, as I said, a little more Scarlatina than our share, but against this we certainly can congratulate ourselves on our freedom from Enteric and Diphtheria epidemics.

As regards the two cases of Cerebro-spinal Fever they both occurred in persons of middle life (25 to 45 years). Both were females, living in a good class of house, not in the centre of the town. One case arose in Oakley Road in May, and the other was in Archer Road, in September. Both cases were severe, and died. The diagnosis was not confirmed by a microscopical examination. Disinfection was thoroughly carried out, and no fresh cases occurred.

Little need be said about the non-notifiable diseases. We had a remarkably free year. The summer was very dry, but somewhat cold, and epidemic diarrhoea cases were very few. Whooping Cough has not been responsible for a single death, though we had 12 deaths from this cause last year. Measles was absent all the year, hardly a single case arising, and no death.

HOUSING.

In last year's report I mentioned that the question of a scheme for building under the Housing and Town Planning Act was receiving your earnest attention.

The Council have now applied for, and obtained, the sanction of a loan of £7,128 for the erection of 36 workmen's cottages on the Sillins estate land, recently acquired. The houses, which have been designed by your Surveyor, are now in the course of erection. Twelve will be finished by May 1st, and the remainder by October 1st. They are arranged in blocks of four, divided by 6ft. 6in. passages. Each block of four is on a plot of ground with frontage of 72ft. and depth of 155ft.

The accommodation will be:—Ground floor, living room, 1,326 cubic feet; kitchen-scully, 918 cubic feet; pantry, 230 cubic feet; w.c. and coal-place outside. First floor—Three bedrooms, 1,296, 765 and 569 cubic feet respectively. The two larger bedrooms have fireplaces. Each living room has the "Ellkay" parlour grate, the fire of which heats oven and furnace in the kitchen-scully, as well as parlour-grate. The bath is in the scully, has hot and cold water laid on, and a hinged shelf to let down for use as a table when the bath is not in use. Your surveyor (to whom I am indebted for all particulars) estimates the annual expenditure as £523. This includes annuities on land, buildings, street works, and fencing, compounded district and poor rates, water supply, insurance, repairs, collection of rents, contingencies, etc., etc.

The proposed rental of 5s. 9d. a week would bring in a total of £538 a year, leaving £15 as an allowance for empties and losses. There is no question at all as to the necessity of providing more workmen's dwellings for the town, but some doubt was expressed as to the class and rental of house that ought to be built, many wishing to see cheaper houses erected. Personally, I am of opinion that those of a rental between five and six shillings are such as we require. When a sufficient number of this type are up—and I think many more than 36 are required—the congestion in the dwellings in the central parts of the town will be relieved, and the rents of these houses, at the present time inflated, owing to the demand, come down to a reasonable figure. Later on, the Council will, I am sure, have to consider the advisability of proceeding with a further building scheme.

There has been for years a decline in building cheap cottages by private enterprise. In the eight years 1906-1913, only 57 houses of a rental under 7s. a week have been erected. During

the same time 266 houses of a rental between 7s. and 8s. 6d. were built. The reasons given for the decline of private enterprise are :—

(1) The speculative builder builds to sell and there is not a ready market for cottage property.

(2) The cost of land is in most parts of the town rather high for cottages.

(3) The cost of building materials has gone up, wages of workmen higher, etc.

In connection with housing, I may mention that on November 17th, 1913, your surveyor took a census of those entering and leaving the urban district between the hours of 6.30 a.m. and nine a.m. 3,258 persons entered, and 547 left in that period.

Under the Housing and Town Planning Act, the work of inspection, alterations required, etc., is fully set out in the Inspector's report, and need not be further mentioned by me, as full particulars are given.

BUILDING BYE-LAWS.

A Sub-Committee has been appointed by the Council to revise the bye-laws for new streets and buildings, and it is hoped that a complete new set will be adopted in the near future. The present bye-laws have been in operation since 1877.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1902.

Eight midwives are registered as practising in the district. The County Council carry out the duties of Inspection.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT, 1907.

Under this Act all births are notifiable to the County Medical Officer of Health, who immediately sends them on to the Health Missioner here. She is thus enabled to visit and advise within a few days of the birth of the child.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

Full details of the work under this Act are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

GENERAL SANITARY SURVEY.

SEWERS.

The modern plant of tanks and bacteria beds at the Sewage Farm continue to be most satisfactory in their working, and have now been three years in use. During 1913, owing to the efficient condition of the sewers, very little work was expended on them besides flushing and cleansing out manholes.

DRAINAGE.

The fixing of so many new water closets, to replace old pans, has occasioned the laying of many new drains, and, in addition to these, many houses were re-drained where it was found necessary.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Whilst repairs to the destructor were being carried out the refuse had to be tipped. The nuisance caused and the complaints received during the three weeks made one realise the undoubted advantage of cremation as a means of disposal.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

Both the dry closet and water closet systems are in vogue in the town. Every endeavour continues to be made to lessen the number of earth closets. This year 103 were converted, the largest number so far in one year. There are still 1,424 pail closets in the town. Efforts will be directed in 1914 to clear out those remaining in the central and more closely populated part of the district.

Your Sanitary Inspector, in his report, deals so fully with drainage, water supply, inspection of food, slaughterhouses, bake-houses, dairies, cowsheds and the other matters in connection with his work that little is left for me to say, except it be a word of congratulation, as to the excellence of the work accomplished.

In last year's report through the kindness of Mr. Blakey, I was able to give the rainfall at Redditch for the years from 1882 to 1912. This year I am again indebted to him. 29.64 inches fell in 1913, as against 40.44 in 1912—the latter year was most exceptional. Mr. Blakey says, ‘‘As regards the rainfall of 1913, in quantity it may be considered only slightly above the average ; but as can be seen by the figures for each month, it was not evenly distributed.’’

Your obedient servant,

JAMES STEVENSON, D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING
1913 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.*		TOTAL DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncorrected Number	Nett.		Number	Rate.*	Non-residents registered in the District.	Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.	
			Number	Rate.					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	15,340	396	396	25·8	177	11·5	4	14	38	95	187	12·1
1909	15,600	349	349	22·3	198	12·6	4	6	30	85	200	12·8
1910	15,885	351	351	22·0	171	10·7	6	10	30	85	175	11·0
1911	15,500	310	310	20·0	168	10·8	10	21	30	96	179	11·5
1912	15,700	315	315	20·0	173	11·0	3	16	19	60	186	11·8
1913	15,900	318	322	20·2	162	10·1	1	16	27	83	177	11·1

Total Population at all ages, 15,463—at Census of 1911.

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 1,023 acres, 1911.

Number of inhabited houses, 3,600, 1911.

Average number of persons per house, 4·3, 1911.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1913.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District.								Total Cases Removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox									3
Cholera									
Plague									
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup ..	4		1	3					47
Erysipelas	20			1	6	4	8	1	
Scarlet Fever	62		11	42	7	2			
Typhus Fever									
Enteric Fever.. .. .									
Relapsing Fever									
Continued Fever									
Puerperal Fever									
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ..	2					2			
Poliomyelitis									
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	41			18	5	14	3	1	
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	14		1	5	4	4			
Opthalmia Neonatorum	3	3							
Totals ..	146	3	13	69	22	26	11	2	50

Isolation Hospitals—Joint Board for Scarlatina, Diphtheria and Enteric, at Bromsgrove.

For Small-pox, at Lower Bentley.

For Tuberculosis, at Knightwick, near Worcester ; at Welland, near Malvern.

TABLE III.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING YEAR

1913.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the District.									Deaths in Public Institutions
	All Ages.	Under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards.	
Enteric Fever ..										
Smallpox ..										
Measles ..										
Scarlet Fever ..	1				1					
Whooping Cough ..										
Diphtheria and Croop ..	1			1						
Influenza ..	2							2		
Erysipelas ..	1								1	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..										
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	12					2	8	2		
Tuberculous Meningitis ..										
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	2					1	1			1
Cancer, Malignant Disease ..	8							4	4	
Rheumatic Fever ..	1							1		
Meningitis ..	3	1					1	1		
Organic Heart Disease ..	15			1	1	1		9	3	
Bronchitis ..	16	4		1				5	6	
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	21	6	4	1	1		1	7	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ..	2							2		
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ..	5	4	1							
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ..										
Cirrhosis of Liver ..	2						1	1		
Alcoholism ..										
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ..	4	1					1	2		1
Puerperal Fever ..										
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ..										
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ..	9	9								
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ..	1						1			1
Suicides ..										
Accidental Deaths ..										
Other Defined Diseases ..	41				1	2	3	19	16	3
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ..	30	3				1			26	
All Causes { Certified	165	27	6	4	4	7	17	55	57	7
Uncertified	12									

TABLE IV.
INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1913.
Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year
of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Wk.	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total Under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year.
Smallpox										
Chickenpox										
Measles										
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough.. ..										
Diphtheria (including membranous croup) ..										
Erysipelas.. ..										
Tuberculous Meningitis..										
Abdominal Tuberculous ...										
Other T u b e r c u l o u s Diseases										
Meningitis(not tuberculosis)										
Convulsions						I	I	I		3
Laryngitis.. ..										
Bronchitis.. ..						2			I	3
Pneumonia (all forms) ..						2	3	I	I	7
Diarrhœa,						2	I		I	4
Enteritis,										
Gastritis										
Syphilis										
Rickets										
Suffocation, Overlying ..										
Injury at Birth										
Atelectasis										
Congenital Malformations	I				I		I			2
Premature Birth	6				6					6
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus							I			I
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh										
Want of Breast Milk, Starvation										
Other Causes									I	I
ALL CAUSES	7				7	7	7	2	4	27

Net Births in the year	{	Legitimate	..	..	311
	{	Illegitimate	..	..	11
					<hr/>
		Total	..		322
Net Deaths in the year	{	Legitimate Infants	..	27	
	{	Illegitimate Infants	..		
					<hr/>
		Total	..		27

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF REDDITCH.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND
HOUSING COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Fourteenth Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1913, giving particulars of work performed under your instructions during the year.

Property-owners have generally readily complied with the requirements as ordered, and it has not been found necessary to institute proceedings against any owner or agent for not having complied with notices that had been served upon them.

As in previous years, alterations and other works that have been ordered have been supervised, and in many cases house drains have had to be taken up and re-laid after the old drains had been tested, and found to be defective.

Sixty-five complaints have been received during the year. Enquiries have been made in every case, and, where necessary, proper steps were taken to have the nuisances abated.

From time to time I have brought the question before your notice of the responsibility of tenants where owners had carried out improvements. To my mind, it is a deplorable state of affairs for tenants, by either carelessness or wilful neglect, to damage houses and sanitary conveniences after the owner has been compelled by the Council to put such premises into a sanitary condition. As such have been met I have brought before your notice particulars of same, and each case has been dealt with in the only possible manner, namely, by giving notice under Section 91 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and so far, although this procedure lends itself to a good deal of delay, the matters have been rectified at the cost of the tenants.

Upon the completion of repairs or alterations of an extensive nature, I give each of the tenants notice that they will be held responsible for any nuisance that may be caused by their carelessness or negligence. But before it will be possible to deal in a satisfactory manner with such tenants, I am of opinion it will be necessary for legislation to be provided for such purpose, which would prevent the long delay that may arise between the time of the notice being given and the work actually being put right.

NOTICES.

Two hundred and fifty-one notices were served for abatement of nuisances, and for obtaining sanitary improvements under the Public Health Act.

Of this number twenty-nine were “final” or legal notices, two hundred and twenty-two being “formal,” or preliminary.

The appended table shows the nature of the notices issued.

NATURE OF NOTICE.				No. Issued.	No. Outstand'g
Defective and choked drains	...	...		17	
„ „ „ water closets	...	...		10	
„ foul privies	...	...	...	8	
„ sinks	...	...	...	9	
„ yards and pavements	...	...		10	1
„ eave and fall spouts	...	...		15	
„ bell and dip traps	...	...		3	
„ ashpits and ashbins	...	...		16	1
„ house roofs, walls, floors or ceilings				17	1
Houses without proper drains	...	...		4	
Accumulations of manure and pig wash	...			18	
Animals or fowls improperly kept	...	...		16	
Houses in filthy condition	...	...	...	14	
Dilapidated wash-houses or closets	...	...		9	2
Drains not trapped or ventilated	...	...		4	
Rain-water tanks in foul condition	...	...		4	
Nuisances from disused wells	...	...		8	1
Houses requiring ventilation	...	...		2	
Sanitary conveniences without water supply				4	
Yards and court in filthy condition...	...			14	
Want of proper ashpits or ashbins	...	...		10	
Houses overcrowded	...	...	...	14	3
Want of efficient closet accommodation	...			11	
House cellars in dirty condition	...	...		8	
Sink waste pipes connected to drain	...			6	
				251	9

CLERICAL.

During the year eight hundred and sixty-nine letters were written relative to the work of the office. Of this number two hundred and forty-one were letters of recommendation. This practice has continued to give the good results obtained in previous years, as improvements of a wider nature have generally been carried out when such letters have been sent.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

The premises upon which the principal sanitary improvements were effected are situated at

George Street, Walford Street, Ipsley Street, Adelaide Street, Evesham Road, Birchfield Road, Evesham Street, Britten Street, Beoley Road, St. George's Road and Prospect Hill.

The following sanitary improvements have been effected :—

- 18 new wash houses erected.
- 103 new water closets.
- 75 houses re-drained.
- 37 choked drains cleansed.
- 65 water closets repaired.
- 37 drains repaired.
- 23 disconnecting traps fixed.
- 12 fresh air inlets provided.
- 53 inspection chambers built.
- 140 sanitary gullies fixed.
- 1 agricultural pipe drain abolished.
- 58 glazed sinks fixed.
- 45 new sink pipes fixed.
- 33 old brick sinks abolished.
- 135 refuse receptacles provided or repaired.
- 23 ventilation shafts fixed.
- 22 defective bell traps abolished.
- 35 yard pavements repaired or relaid.
- 10 open catchpits abolished.
- 85 eave and rain spouts repaired or renewed.
- 75 accumulations of manure removed.
- 40 nuisances from pigs abated.
- 52 water wasting cases abated.
- 9 smoke nuisances modified upon request.
- 37 house roofs repaired.
- 8 closets provided with flushing arrangements.
- 10 rain-water tanks cleansed.
- 16 rain-water tanks filled up.
- 14 disused wells filled up.
- 86 houses cleansed and limewashed.
- 3 privy middens abolished.

WATER SUPPLY.

The five wells which were in use last year continue to supply water for drinking purposes, twenty-one houses being supplied from them.

The wells are situated as follow :—Arrow Road, Church Green East, Melen Street, Evesham Road, and Windsor Street.

The County Council have decided to analyse samples of water for local authorities without charging any fee for same, which will be beneficial to this Council. It has also been decided that a sample of the town's supply shall be submitted for analysis, at least once every quarter, such samples to be sent by arrangement with the County Analyst.

PRIVY MIDDENS.

Four of these privy middens are now in use in this district, as against seven last year, only one of which is emptied by the Council.

The number of these offensive middens was eighty-nine in the year 1900, so that they have been steadily dealt with.

Arrangements are in progress for the abolition of one situated in Beoley Road.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are six of these premises within the district, all of which are licensed, being one less than in the year previous. The Picture Palace is erected upon the site where the registered slaughterhouse stood in Alcester Street.

The premises have been visited as frequently as possible, and as far as their wooden construction would permit, they have been kept in a fairly clean condition.

From time to time I have pointed out the need for a Public Abattoir, and each year the need becomes greater. Butchers open new shops in the town, and in most cases they have to be dependent upon the good nature of some other butcher allowing them the use of a slaughterhouse. Such permission is not always to be obtained ; then arrangements have to be made to either buy only dead meat, or have the animals killed outside the district.

Such conditions do not contribute to an efficient system of meat inspection, which is impossible under the conditions as existing.

It may be said that several butchers have expressed their desire to be provided with a Public Abattoir, in which they could have their animals slaughtered under satisfactory conditions.

The slaughtering of animals, is, I am glad to say, about to receive the attention of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Such action will be welcomed, and I am looking forward to the future when all our local butchers will have the slaughtering done by proper humane slaughtering appliances.

INSPECTION OF MEAT, FISH AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat, fish and other foods have been inspected during the year in as thorough a manner as was possible.

Seven hundred and eighty-five visits have been made to slaughterhouses, shops and other places where meat and other articles of food were exposed for sale.

No exception was in any case taken to my visits ; on the contrary, the butchers and fish dealers expressed themselves as being pleased to have an opinion upon the articles of food offered for sale ; in fact, often I have been sent for to examine different carcasses for the butchers.

M E A T .

The carcasses of three beasts have been surrendered and destroyed, two being affected with tuberculosis in an advanced state, and one being affected with jaundice ; the total weight being two thousand nine hundred and sixty pounds. The carcase of a pig was also destroyed upon request, the pig having suffered from jaundice.

F I S H .

Two hundred and forty pounds of fish has been surrendered and destroyed, as being unfit for food ; in addition to which a barrel of crabs was also destroyed.

In March I brought before your notice particulars of a fish dealer having exposed and sold some Iceland Plaice which was unfit for food, and that it had been necessary to seize the whole of this fish, forty-nine pounds in all. Subsequently proceedings were taken, as instructed, which resulted in a fine of £5 and costs being imposed.

I also brought before your notice particulars of two Birmingham hawkers, selling herrings in this district in March, which were unfit for food, and which I seized and had destroyed by order of a magistrate. As these hawkers obstructed me in carrying out my duties, it was decided to take proceedings for the two offences, with the result that each defendant was fined £5 and costs for having exposed for sale herrings unfit for food, whilst one defendant was fined 1s. and costs for obstruction, and the other £2 and costs for a similar offence.

Owing to public interest being aroused in this case, and the possibility of similar cases occurring, the County Council, through the County Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Fosbroke), arranged a conference, which was held at Bromsgrove, when the question of the supervision of fish hawkers was discussed, and it was decided at the Conference that a system of co-operation among inspectors of the different districts should be instituted.

I am pleased to say that there has not been any similar cases to bring before you. The heavy penalties inflicted in the cases under notice had, apparently, a deterring effect upon such people.

OTHER FOODS.

Several other articles of food, including pears, tomatoes, cauliflowers, three hundred and eight pounds of French plums, strawberries, apples, etc., have been destroyed during the year.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

Eleven complaints were received relating to nuisances arising from premises used as fried fish shops. They were not found to be of a serious nature when investigated, and it is gratifying to know that the observations made in the last Annual Report have had a good effect on the business.

The great difficulty that the proprietors of these shops had to encounter was obtaining a daily supply of fresh fish. Until recently, the supply was chiefly obtained from local fishmongers. This was anything but reliable, as often the fish which was supplied was just the contrary to being fresh. Arrangements of a different nature are now in operation, and I think with one exception the supplies are received daily from either Grimsby, Milford Haven, Hull and Cleethorpes.

Improvements have also taken place in the construction of some of the premises. In two instances new appliances have been erected, and as these practically consume all the fumes, the noticeable odour is reduced to a minimum, a thing much appreciated by people living in the neighbourhood of such premises.

Grease-proof paper is now more generally used for wrapping up the fried fish, which is another step in the right direction.

I have made arrangements to raise the roof of one place used for this purpose. When the work is completed it will make the place much more suitable for the business, and as a new washing apparatus is to be provided in addition to the structural alterations, the premises will be made quite suitable for the purpose.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDERS.

There are fifty persons registered under these orders, seven being cow-keepers and forty-three purveyors of milk, four less than last year.

The premises have been visited, and, where necessary, the attention of those responsible was called to matters which did not comply with the orders. This proved sufficient to obtain the improvements required.

In September I had occasion to caution a farmer who was sending milk into this district, contained in dirty and rusty churns. In addition to this, the milk was occasionally conveyed in a manure cart. I am pleased to say, however, that as soon as the matter was brought to the notice of the farmer, he immediately had new churns provided for containing the milk, and also made arrangements for the milk to be brought into the town in a suitable float.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

The good work which was accomplished in connection with providing improved sanitary conveniences in the preceding year has been even more marked during the past one, as will readily be seen from the number of pail closets that have been converted into water closets.

A great deal of time has been occupied in dealing with this work, due principally to the fact that when drains have been opened for purposes of making the connections for the conveniences, it was found that they were in most cases in such a defective condition as to be useless for conveying the matter from water closets, and thereby it became necessary to take up the old drains and provide new ones sufficient for the purposes required.

The number of pail closets converted in 1912 was sixty-four, which constituted a record, but the number is greatly exceeded this year, as one hundred and three have been similarly treated, and in all probability the number will be greater during the coming year.

Eight hand-flushed closets have been provided with suitable flushing cisterns, etc., complete.

The numbers of the different types of conveniences in use in the district are as follows :—

2396 fresh water closets.

397 automatically flushed fresh water closets.

40 hand-flushed water closets.

1094 privies with moveable receptacles (1,424 pails).

The premises upon which pail closets have been converted are situated in Windsor Street, Unicorn Hill, Bates Hill, Beoley Road, Queen Street, Victoria Street, George Street, Walford Street, Oswald Street, South Street, Lodge Road, and Mount Pleasant.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, ETC., ACT, 1909.

A considerable amount of my time has been occupied in carrying out duties under this Act. It will be seen that the number of houses inspected is less than either of the two preceding years. This is, however, due to two reasons :—

- (1) The number of infectious cases notified, which interfered with the ordinary work.
- (2) The property which was dealt with was of the most dilapidated class. All the houses reported upon were those whose rental did not exceed £16, as specified under section 14 of the Act.

One hundred and thirty-two houses were inspected during the year under notice. A detailed report of the condition of each house was presented for your consideration.

Each owner was supplied with full particulars of the works required to be carried out, in order to make the houses in all respects reasonably fit for habitation.

The following is a brief summary of the principal improvements effected :—

Damp-proof courses provided, about	...	5720 feet
New house and bedroom floors	...	58
Floors repaired	...	42
New doors and frames	...	76
New windows	...	94
Houses re-roofed	...	30
Wash-houses provided	...	14
New spouting fixed	...	625 feet
Yard pavements laid with blue bricks	...	4785 sq. feet
Windows made to open	...	44
Defective house walls repaired	...	94
Rooms cleansed, papered, painted, etc.	...	108
New water closets provided	...	27
New drains laid	...	480 feet
New ceilings provided	...	21½
Chimneys taken down and rebuilt	...	26
Cisterns and wells filled up	...	18
Water taps fixed over sinks	...	36
Houses closed by owners	...	7

Of the total number of houses inspected ninety-two have had the required alterations completed, leaving forty outstanding on December 31st.

The cost of the works which have been carried out I have estimated at £1,643, approximately ; this giving an average cost per house of £17 17s. 2d. This figure hardly gives a fair impression because the work done to seven houses cost £470. In these cases it was necessary to practically rebuild the cottages. Less this amount, the average cost per house for the eighty-five houses is £13 16s. 3d., or just over £1 per house more than last year, due to the fact that the works have been of rather a more extensive nature.

Many overcrowding cases were found when making inspections under this Act, but only a very few cases could be dealt with, owing to the scarcity of houses. This is answerable in some degree for there being forty houses under this Act outstanding, where repairs are to be carried out, but which could not be done whilst the houses were occupied.

In September I presented a report upon "The Housing Question in Redditch," in which I pointed out the great need for cheap houses for people of the poorer classes, who were unable to help themselves, and in particular for those who are required to remove from houses where extensive alterations are to be carried out.

The need for cheap cottages is quite as great to-day, and until an adequate number are provided, overcrowding must continue to exist.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Three hundred and fifty-six visits have been made under this Act during the year.

Twenty-five notices were received from His Majesty's Inspector of Factories for this district, all of which received proper attention. Two of the notices had reference to the provision of proper automatically flushing latrines, in place of foul pail closets. These have been provided, and in addition to which new drainage was provided for the factories in question.

Two notices referred to the provision of alternative means of escape in case of fire, and another notice referred to the separate accommodation of sanitary conveniences for both sexes, all of which were satisfactorily dealt with.

Thirty-one letters were written to occupiers and owners of factories and workshops, requiring various improvements, all of which were carried out.

Eight notices of occupation of workshops were received, whilst three became void during the year.

Owing to the fact that employers had not in recent years sent in the requisite lists of out-workers as required by the Act, ninety-four letters have been written, asking them to send their lists of out-workers. This has resulted in the names and addresses of two hundred and seventy-five out-workers being sent in. The out-workers have, as far as possible, been visited, and the names and addresses of those residing in adjoining districts have been forwarded to the inspectors for such districts.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are nineteen bakehouses in occupation, which have been visited frequently. Five notices had to be issued requiring lime-washing, all of which were complied with.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are three registered lodging houses. These have been visited regularly, and there has been no cause to make any complaint of the manner in which they were occupied.

Lime-washing and cleansing was done at the stipulated times.

I have reason to believe that certain premises are being used as a common lodging house, and which are not registered for such purpose. I have notified the occupier that it is necessary for premises which are used as a common lodging house to be registered. However, no application has been made, and I may add that I am keeping the premises under observation, and should I find that my suspicions are justified I shall, of course, have to bring the matter before you.

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

Eighteen observations have been taken of chimneys. In three instances I have found that black smoke was being emitted in such quantities as to be a nuisance. The responsible persons were communicated with, when it was ascertained that the cause was due to faulty stoking. Since the complaints were made, different arrangements have been made in the stoking, which has resulted in there being no further cause for complaint.

DISINFECTION.

After all cases of infectious disease, disinfection was carried out, as well as in many cases where medical attendants thought it advisable for such to be done.

I would again thank you for your kind support and consideration, which has been given me during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM JAMESON,

Sanitary Inspector.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES, Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspectors of Nuisances.

PREMISES. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories—including Factory Laundries	92	5	
Workshops—including Workshop Laundries	201	31	
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	4		
Total	297	36	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS. I	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	26	26		
Want of ventilation	1	1		
Overcrowding	2	2		
Want of drainage of floors... ..				
Other nuisances	8	8	1	
Sanitary Accommodation {	insufficient	4	4	1
	unsuitable or defective	4	3	1
	not separate for sexes	2	1	
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse ...				
Breach of special sanit. requirements for bakehouses				
Other offences				
(excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report).				
Total ...	47	45	3	

3.—HOME WORK.

OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.							
NATURE OF WORK.	Lists received from Employers.						Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists.
	Sending twice in the year.			Sending once in the year.			
	Lists.	Outworkers.		Lists.	Outworkers.		
		Con-tractors	Work-men.		Con-tractors	Work-men.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Wearing Apparel—							
(1) making, &c.	5		28	8		24	7
(2) cleaning and washing							
Household linen				4		6	
Lace, lace curtains and nets ...	14		20	19		33	16
Curtains and furniture hangings ...				5		16	2
Furniture and upholstery							
Electro-plate							
File making	2		6	4		15	3
Brass and brass articles				2		4	
Fur pulling							
Cables and chains							
Anchors and grapnels... ..							
Cart gear							
Locks, latches and keys							
Umbrellas, &c.							
Artificial flowers				1		2	
Nets, other than wire nets	2		6	4		16	14
Tents							
Sacks							
Racquet and tennis balls							
Paper bags and boxes... ..	4		14	7		35	20
Brush making							
Pea picking							
Feather sorting				2		2	10
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c. ...	5		16	6		32	18
Stuffed toys							
Basket making							2
Total	32		90	62		185	92

Outworkers in Infected Premises, Sections 109, 110—Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags, instances 2 ; carding, etc., of buttons, etc., instances 2.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops	209	
Bakehouses	19	
Total number of Workshops on Register	—	228

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

MATTERS NOTIFIED TO H.M. INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES	4
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act	5
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act—	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	4
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	3
Other	
Underground Bakehouses :—	
Certificates granted during the year	
In use at the end of the year	

